President's Memorable Message and What It Means for Germany Uppermost Topic of Discussion—Gossip of the Street

In SPITE of everything the peace feeling prevails in the financial districts.

President Wilson's memorable world-message of Tuesday was the uppermost topic of discussion among bankers and brokers as well as among the customers in the several board rooms, which by the way, have had fewer vacant chairs for the last ten days than for a long time previous.

There were some who raised the question as to just what the President had in mind in reference to Belgium when he said that Belgium "must be evacuated and restored." Some thought that it meant the restoration of Belgium physically to the condition in which she was before the war, with a complete restoration of all the enormous and oppressive taxes which have been imposed on the Belgians since the German occupation and compensation to every Belgian subject in money as far as money can compensate, for all the fils and losses he has suffered since the beginning of the war. Others contended that Germany could not possibly pay such an indemnity unless it were distributed over many years; that Germany would be hopelessly bankrupt if the war were ended today. And what redress in money could be had, they contended, from a man who is

It was pointed out, however, that Germany must have an enormous stock of gold, as none or virtually none has left the country since the beginning of the war. It has been circulating in an endless chain from the people to the banks, from the banks to the Government, from the Government to the munition and war supply concerns, and from them to their laborers, and whatever was left was again taken direct by the Government in taxes. And then it must be remembered that Germany has impoverished the occupied countries by levies of food materials and cash, so that she must have still large gold resources to draw upon.

Another point many financial men considered was not quite clear. and one which sooner or later must have an effect upon the market when it is cleared up, and that is the point referring to trade equality. Just what is meant by the removal of economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace, etc., was a subject of disputed opinion. Some said it meant in the event of the Central Powers being still dominated by the military masters, the formation of an economic league of nations which during the continuance of the war and after, would ostracise the Central Powers commercially. Others thought it meant the throwing down of tariff barriers and opening the world's markets to every nation on equal terms, or, as advocated by Gladstone and Bright free markets for labor and labor's products the world over, something which they hoped would arrive at some

Stabilization of Argentine Exchange

Speaking of the arrangement announced by Secretary of the Treasury McAdo on Monday last to stabilize Argentine exchange, a well-known downtown banker who is in close touch with the leading banker of the Argentine said he had recently received from him a report on trade de velopment and conditions in that country which showed that of the spendid trade which Germany had built up in that country at an enormous outlay of money and brains about 60 per cent of it is now being done by the United States and 40 per cent by Great Britain.

He gave it as his opinion that a similar situation prevails in all the South American countries where German trade was dominant before the war, and said that even were the war to end today he could not see how under the most favorable circumstances Germany could ever regain a considerable fraction of the busines; she has lost, and which with the loss of her merchant fleets it . ould require many years to overcome.

It is said that the arrangement made for Argentina by Secretary McAdoo will not necessitate the shipment of gold to that country, and that special legislation has recently been passed in Argentina to issue notes against a gold reserve here for which there was no former provision.

Briefly the plan is that merchants with bills to meet in Argentina will be permitted to deposit the money with the Federal Reserve Bank and the Argentine Government will pay out a similar amount to the merchant's creditor. After the war adjustment of balances will then be made and gold to meet them will be shipped to Argentina.

Effective Court Ruling on Income Tax

There are all kinds of estimates as to the approximate amount that will be relieved from income tax owing to the recent decision of the Supreme Court, and which before the ruling was counted as income. It is said that some revenue officials had placed the amount that would be lost to the Government at about \$50,000,000,

At least thirty corporations distributed stock with a par value of almost \$100,000,000 and as the law was intrepreted before the decision it was the purpose t tax the recipients as though the par value was

In this connection perhaps the one who will profit most from the decision of the Supreme Court is Charles M. Schwab, of the Bethlehem Steel Corporaation. It is reported that prior to the capital increase voted last year Mr. Schwab owned one-half, or \$7,500,000. The stock dividend of 200 per cent on this basis would give him \$15,000,000 more. Under the decision he will pay income tax on \$15,000,000 less than he would have done otherwise. As by a strict construction of the income tax law and the surtaxes the dividend probably would have been subject to 50 per

Discredits Theory of Attempt to Discredit Liberty 4's

The principal member of a well-known banking and investment house who was prominent in connection with both Liberty Loans said today that he did not believe there was an combination trying to depress the Liberty 4sens had been freely stated in financial circles both here and in

He said if Secretary McAdoo would only request the financial institutions over which he has control to give him data on who were trying to sell these bonds as far as their knowledge goes he would find that the small investors who are paying by installments and who found the payments too onerous and are stopping their payments, thus necessitating the institutions through which they originally subscribe to dispose of the bonds in order to recoup themselves, were really the ones who are depressing prices.

Speaking of the possible rate which the next issue of Liberty Bonds would carry, he said no financial house or institution any more than the Secretary of the Treasury wants to see the rate greater than 4 per cent. If the rate should be made higher, it is contended in some quarters, there would be a decline in railroad and other bonds bearing a fixed rate of interest to almost the low levels which prevailed during and after the last Liberty Loan campaign.

The question also arises as to how the Government could expect to float another Liberty Loan at 4 per cent when the last 4 per cent loan is selling on the market at less than par, as people would prefer to buy the last Liberty 4s when they can buy them at less than par in preference to paying par for a new loan. As has been pointed out in this column before, the only way by which another large Liberty Loan at 4 per cent could be readily absorbed would be to make it free from income and war taxation at least for amounts of \$25,000 or less held by an individual.

It has been suggested as an alternative that the Government issue them at less than par, but such a plan would not meet with general favor. No one here wants to see the strongest financial nation in the world put out its own bonds at less than par, even though both England and France have done so successfully.

Another method has been suggested which would appeal to the gambling or speculative element in humanity, and that is an issue calling for redemption at comparatively early dates according to a scale of premium prices to be paid to bondholders in case the Government called the bonds for redemption before maturity.

Brokers' Offices in "Waiting" Attitude

There was little activity in brokers' offices yesterday." The reason given in most cases was that the country had entered a "waiting" periodwaiting to find out whether we are to enter a long war or an earlyl peace.

More than on Tuesday the peace feeling prevailed yesterday. It was remarked generally that with Britain, the United States and Germany all giving out their peace terms the way was being cleared toward an understanding. The great difficulty, it was remarked, was as to "who" was speaking for Germany, as President Wilson brought out in his world-

message on Tuesday.

A broker who specializes in P. R. T. securities said yesterday there were large blocks of stock ready to come out at 30 and that he considered the stock a bargain at 27.

LOSES ITS LICENSE PLEA OF BRUMBAUGH

One of the Oldest Hostelries in Lehigh Valley, on Site of Stockade

MAUCH CHUNK, Jan. 10 .- Judge Barber revoked the license held by vanians are urged to put every penny George B. Begel for the Fort Allen Hotel at Welsspert, one of the oldest hostelries in the Lehigh Valley, on the charge of selling liquor to minors. The court also revoked the license of Frederick E. Pohlman and Charles Reich, at Bowmanstown, on the charge of selling infoxicants to minors and to persons of known intermegate babits. sons of known intemperate habits. The action against the Fort Allen lows:
House was brought by District Attorney Setzer at the request of the citizens. ney Seizer at the request of the citizens, Begel, the proprietor, is a brother of ex-Sheriff Begel. The hotel stands on the site of old Fort Allen, a stockade built in 1755 to protect the frontier settlers from the Indians.

Judge Barber granted one new retail ligner Resums in Packer township, near

liquor license in Pacicer township, near Hudsendale, to Thomas P. Wetzel, whose license was refused a year ago. It is the only place between Mauch Chunk and Beaver Meadow where travelers may be entertained, and was a hotel for more than a half century until a year

John R. G. Weysser Brewery here. The plant was absorbed by the Cirlieb Brew-ing Company several years ago, but was abandoned. Business is to be reumed by the applicant. Many retail and wholesale dealers

against whom miner complaints had been made were told that unless they complied with the law strictly in future their licenses would be revoked, Carbon County has 184 licensed laces, as compared with 188 last year, our retail liquor dealers left their places of business last year, apparently

for want of patronage

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Jan. 10 .- The court handed down a decision de-nying the request of the Law and Or-der Society for the appointment of a dission to investigate the saloona in the mining towns of this county. The overcrowding of salcons is alleged to be responsible for the failure of many colries to produce maximum amounts of

The court does not believe it has authority to appoint a commission, but announced that remonstrances against suons in the coal region will receive due attention. The decision applies to Ma-hinoy City, Shenandoah and Miners-ville and was made in time to allow remonstrances to be filed.

EDGE LIEUTENANTS CALL CONFERENCE

Governor Fdge's home county party lieutements, at odds over the proposed selection of Edmund C. Gaskill, Judge of the City Court, for Prosecutor, have arranged for a conference. The situation has serious possibilities because of Governor Edge's impending candidacy for United States Senator, and the fact that Atlantic with Burlington, Cape May here. New business to the amount of \$200,000 was written in 1917. Delegates from many parts of the State are gates from many parts of t

BUY THRIFT STAMPS.

Issues Proclamation Urging

port of the movement for the sale of brift stamps. The proclamation, which thrift stamps. The proclamation, which the committee in charge of sales of the stamps, is as fol-

Whereas, The National War Savings Committee, under sanction of the Secretary of the Treasury, has undertaken the laudable and vital service of placing within the resources of all our people the worthy privilege of supplying to this nation \$2,000,000,000 by the sale of war-saving stamps,

Whereas, Pennsylvan Whereas, Pennsylvania is so commandingly an essential part of this great nation, and has always in the past wars and in this war done its full share in loyally sustaining the nation in its hours of need; and has in the Liberty Loans, the Red Cross, the Young Men's Christian Association and other fiscal calls given and siven well; and has led in the conservation of food, and is rich in devotion to duty today, as always she has been.

Therefore I Martin Grove Brum-

national henor and international

FARMERS IN FAVOR OF WAR MARKETS

ATLANTIC CITY, Jan. 16. WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., Jan. 10.—The

Congressman in the fall. Representative Bacharach is expected to be a candidate to succeed himself.

market plan for the elimination of the middleman. She pointed out that the him didleman is expected to be a candidate to succeed himself. Sacharach is expected to be a succeed himself.

Senator Emerson I. Richards, who is products to the middleman if he wants products to the plan to succeed. She said the plan is in successful operation in Cleveland and has resulted in reducing prices. In private, Northwood Cem. Relative and lass resulted in reducing prices. The plan were adopted by the alliance and a committee adopted by the alliance and a committee was appointed to make it effective.

Susquehanna

Susquehanna

Triends invited to me house in the plan were and private. Northwood Cem. Relatives and some private and private. Northwood Cem. Relatives and private. Northwoo

And Canadian and section of the a completion of the completion of

Trainman Ends Life With Poison LANCASTER, Pa., Jan. 16.—Walter H. Sauer, twenty-eight years old, son of John Sauer, committed suicide last night by taking poison. He was a Pennsyl-Issues Proclamation Urging
People to Invest and Help
Nation Win War

HARRISBURG, Jan. 10.—Pennsylresides in Philadelphia.

Deaths

ABRAHAMS — Jan. P. MARY N. widow of Richard Abrahams. Relatives and friends. Emanuel Jeforaned Episcopal Church. In-vited to futeral, 2840 C st., Sat., Z u. m. In. North Cedar Hill Cem. Remains may be viewed Fri. ev. Auto service. AMBACHER -- Jan. 8. MARY E., widow of John C. Amhacher. Relatives and friends invited to functal, Nat. No. 11, 1218 Fiera 22. Solemn regulum mass Courch of fi-

Relatives and friends the services. Fri., 1:30 p. 10.-Int. private, Gulph Cem., Pa.

Atlantic County Politicians Pennsylvania Alliance and Union Holds Its Annual

Line County Politicians Pennsylvania Alliance and Union Holds Its Annual

Line Charlet J. Charlet

No. 54, L. O. O. M., Hylited to tuneral, Sun., I. D. M., 2117 N. Carcisie et. (near 15th and Allegheny ave.). Zut. M. Morish Cem. Remeins may be Mewed Sat. eve. Auto Remains may be viewed Sat. eveservice.

GILDNER.—Jan. 9. RMILY S., widow of
Edwin T. Gildner. Belatives and friends
invited to funeral services. Mon., 1.30 p. m.,
2213 Balubridge st. Int. private. Remains
may be viewed Sun. eve.
GLENN.—Jan. T. ANNA A., widow of
Edwin L. Glenn, aged 71. Relatives and
friends invited to funeral. Frl. 2 p. m.,
4832 Griscom st., Frankford, Int. East
Cedar 1811 from.

GRUHLER.—At Philipsburg. N. J. Jan.
FREDERICK, husband of Anna McKerry
Gruhler and eldest son of late Rev. John. and
Caroline Gruhler. HARING —Jan. 9, ISAAC HARING, Refa-tors and friends invited to funeral services. HARING.—Jan. 9. ISAAC HARING. Relatives and friends invited to funeral services. 71, 7.30 s. m. residence of son-in-law, John V. Gilbert. 3423 N. 17th st. Int. Set. Urrhands. Fa. on arrival of 12:30 p. m. residence. Fa. on J. Jan. MICHAEL, hashend of Margaret Honores need Egan). Relatives and friends. Holy same Society, invited to funeral services. St. 130 a. m. late residence. Fellowship, V. J. High mass of requiete at Our Lady of Good Coursel Church, 9 a. m. Int. M. armel Com. Auton will meet 7 a. m. Italian for Com. Auton will meet 7 a. m. trois IENNIERSON.—Jan. 9. EMMA L. widow f. Joseph Hemderson ince. Fautice), axed f. Relatives and friends members of Huma lists Club, lady Washington Caron. No. 2. aday of Athens Invited to funeral services.

invited to funeral services. Sat., 1 p. m., as51 Willows avg., W. Phila. Int. private. Friends may call Frt., 7 to b p. m. MURPHY.—Saddenly, Jan. T. ANTHONY A. MURPHY. aged 56. Relatives and friends. Ratenders' Local Union. No. 113: F. O. E., Aeria No. 42, invited to funeral. Frt. 7,15 a. m. 250 N. Broad st. Mass St. Monica's Church S a. m. Int. Holy Cross Cem. Remains may be viewed Thurs. after 7 p. m. New York and Brouklyn papersony.

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